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A Fun *Quiz Yourself* Section Included!

George Washington

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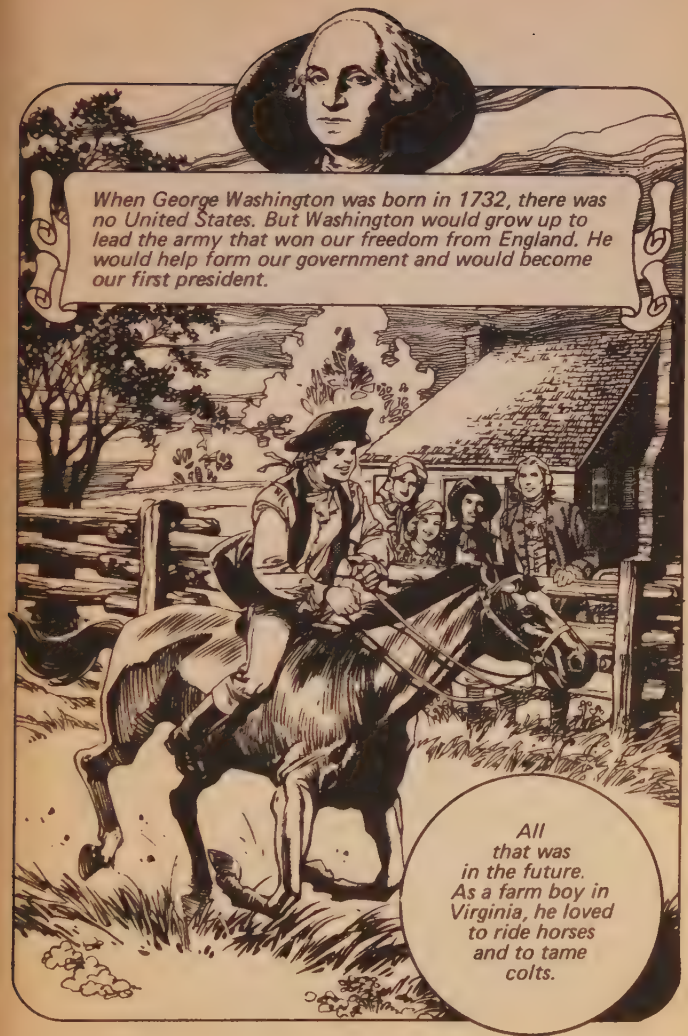
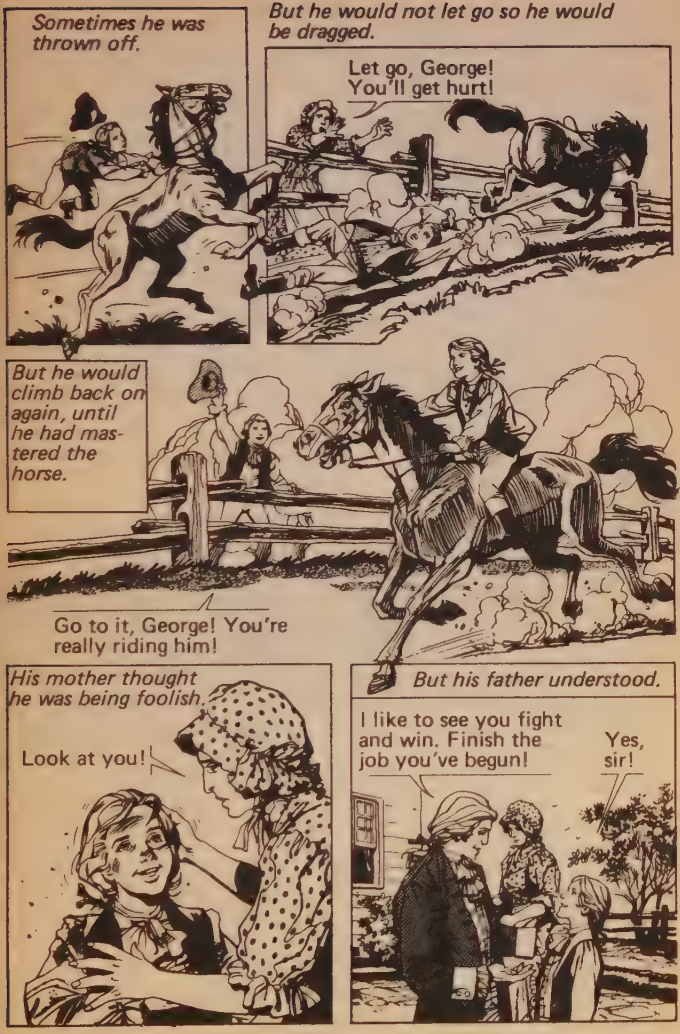
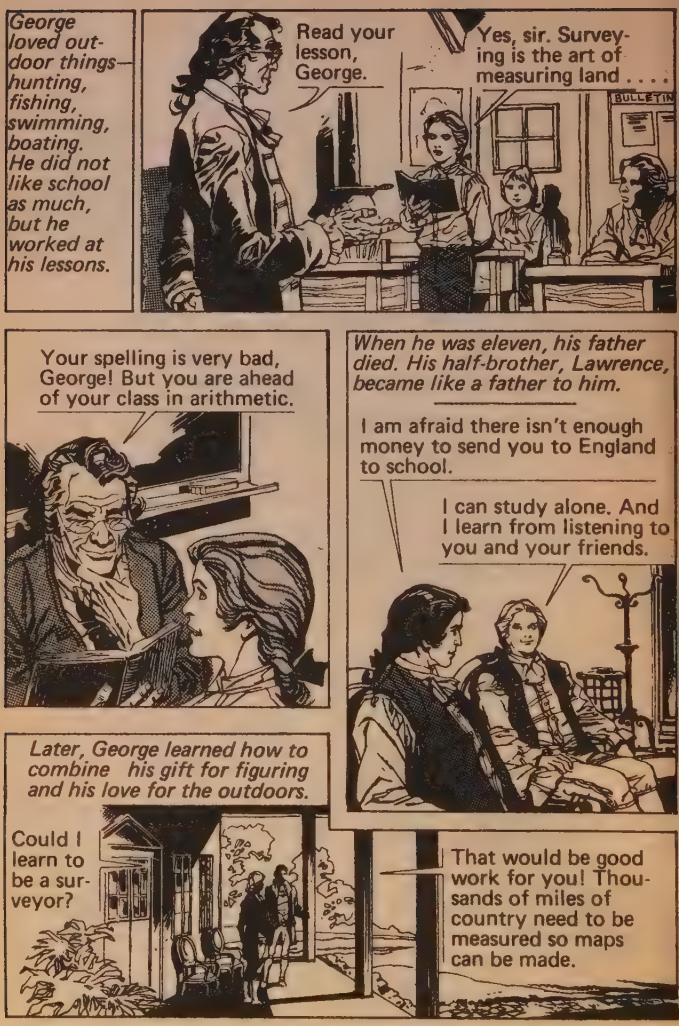
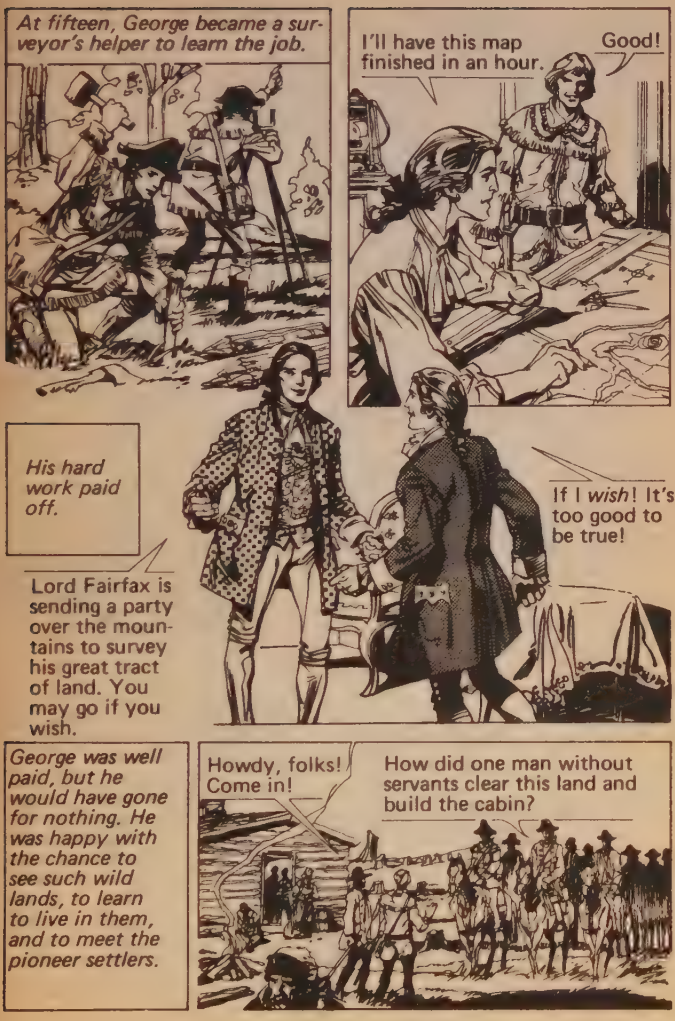

When George Washington was born in 1732, there was no United States. But Washington would grow up to lead the army that won our freedom from England. He would help form our government and would become our first president.
All that was in the future. As a farm boy in Virginia, he loved to ride horses and to tame colts.

The Young Surveyor


Sometimes he was thrown off.
But he would not let go so he would be dragged.
Let go, George! You'll get hurt!
But he would climb back on again, until he had mastered the horse.
Go to it, George! You're really riding him!
His mother thought he was being foolish.
Look at you!
But his father understood.
I like to see you fight and win. Finish the job you've begun!
Yes, sir!

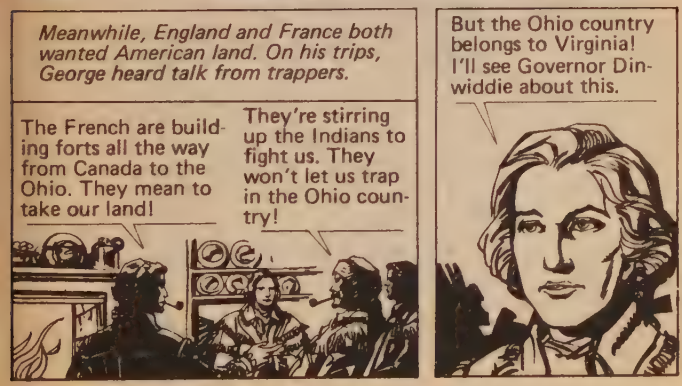

George loved outdoor things—hunting, fishing, swimming, boating. He did not like school as much, but he worked at his lessons.
Read your lesson, George.
Yes, sir. Surveying is the art of measuring land . . . .
BULLETIN
Your spelling is very bad, George! But you are ahead of your class in arithmetic.
When he was eleven, his father died. His half-brother, Lawrence, became like a father to him.
I am afraid there isn't enough money to send you to England to school.
I can study alone. And I learn from listening to you and your friends.
Later, George learned how to combine his gift for figuring and his love for the outdoors.
Could I learn to be a surveyor?
That would be good work for you! Thousands of miles of country need to be measured so maps can be made.

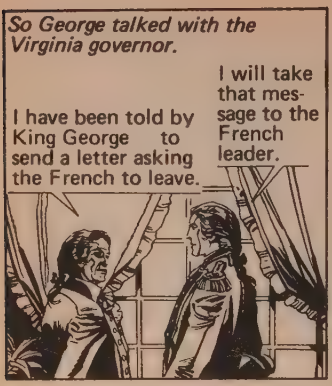

At fifteen, George became a surveyor's helper to learn the job.
I'll have this map finished in an hour.
Good!
His hard work paid off.
Lord Fairfax is sending a party over the mountains to survey his great tract of land. You may go if you wish.
If I *wish*! It's too good to be true!
George was well paid, but he would have gone for nothing. He was happy with the chance to see such wild lands, to learn to live in them, and to meet the pioneer settlers.
Howdy, folks! Come in!
How did one man without servants clear this land and build the cabin?

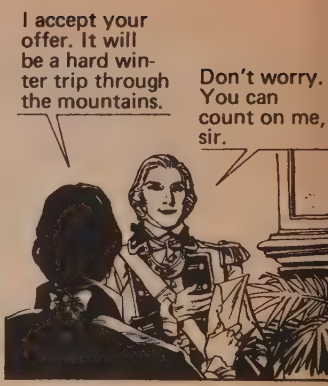
They shot game for food.
They camped in the forest.
George, you're becoming a good cook!
George had seen few Indians before. One night, however, the men watched an Indian war dance.
Afterward, George wrote in his diary about the Indian drum: "The music is a pot half full of water with a deerskin stretched over it."
When he was seventeen, he passed his surveyor's test. But he did not spend all his time working.
He learned to dance, and he enjoyed it all his life.
You dance well, sir!

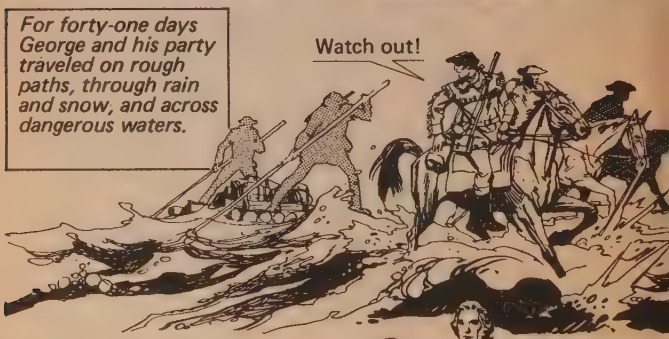
The French and Indian War

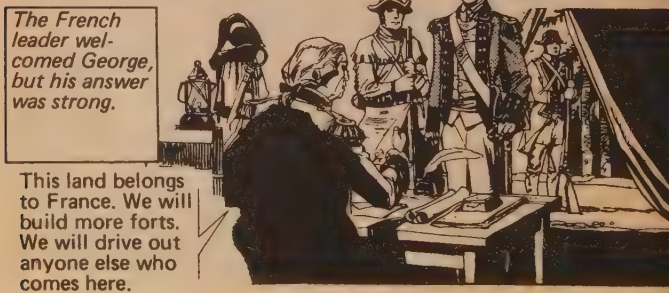
He also took part in fox hunts. No one could ride better than he.
In 1752, Lawrence died. Sadly, George took over the family home, Mt. Vernon.
He also became Major George Washington of the Virginia Militia.
Glad to have you, Major!
I only hope, sir, that I can do half as fine a job as Lawrence did in training our troops!

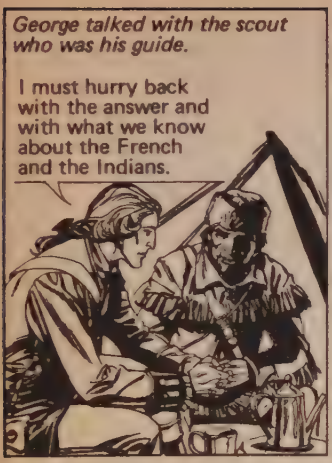

Meanwhile, England and France both wanted American land. On his trips, George heard talk from trappers.
The French are building forts all the way from Canada to the Ohio. They mean to take our land!
They're stirring up the Indians to fight us. They won't let us trap in the Ohio country!
But the Ohio country belongs to Virginia! I'll see Governor Dinwiddie about this.


So George talked with the Virginia governor.
I have been told by King George to send a letter asking the French to leave.
I will take that message to the French leader.

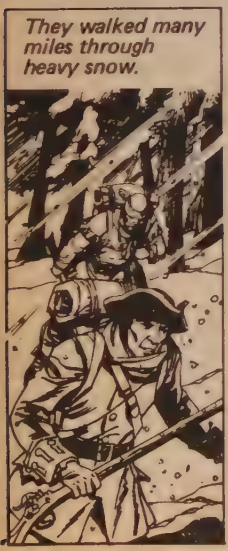

I accept your offer. It will be a hard winter trip through the mountains.
Don't worry. You can count on me, sir.


For forty-one days George and his party traveled on rough paths, through rain and snow, and across dangerous waters.
Watch out!


The French leader welcomed George, but his answer was strong.
This land belongs to France. We will build more forts. We will drive out anyone else who comes here.


George talked with the scout who was his guide.
I must hurry back with the answer and with what we know about the French and the Indians.

The horses are growing thin and weak.
Then we will leave them and the rest of the party to follow slowly. You and I will go on foot!


They walked many miles through heavy snow.

They escaped an Indian ambush.

Making their way across a great river full of ice, George fell in and had to swim for his life.
Look out!

But they arrived safely. Governor Dinwiddie was pleased with the hard, fast trip George had made. He formed new plans.
Major, I want you to lead a force of men against the French. Build a fort at the forks of the Ohio River.
I will do my best, sir.

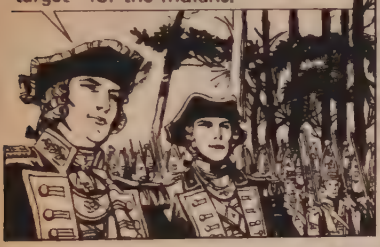
The men George led were too few to fight the French army. Badly defeated, they surrendered and marched back to Virginia.

But people began to know that George Washington was brave and strong—and a good leader.

The king of England sent an army to Virginia to fight the French.

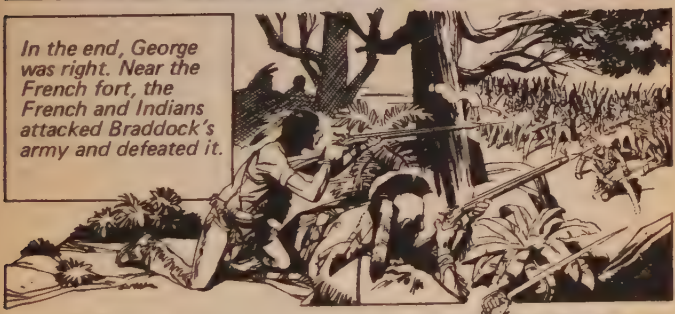
But George did not think so. He was chosen to guide Braddock.

Sir, in the forest, the men's red coats and the way they march in lines will make them an easy target for the Indians.



The Indians may be dangerous to your American troops. But they won't hurt the king's soldiers.

In the end, George was right. Near the French fort, the French and Indians attacked Braddock's army and defeated it.



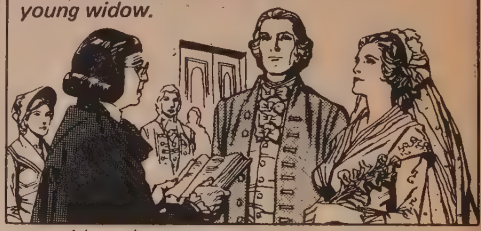
George fought hard. Bullets went through his hat and clothes. Two horses were shot from under him.

Take cover! Shoot when you can see your enemy!

Most of Virginia's soldiers escaped safely. George had taught them how to fight like the Indians.

The war between France and England lasted for seven years. George fought many times, and he became a well-known leader. The French were finally driven back to Canada.

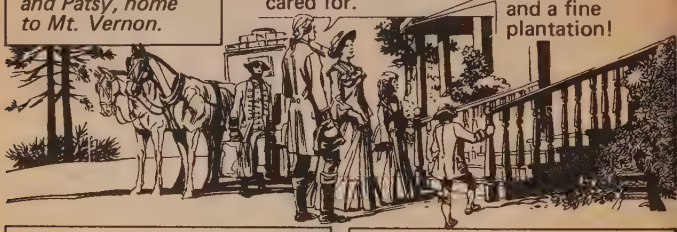
And there were happier events. On January 6, 1759, he married Martha Custis, a pretty young widow.



He took her and her two children, Jack and Patsy, home to Mt. Vernon.

I have been away too long. The house hasn't been cared for.

Together we will make it a happy home and a fine plantation!



George loved his family.

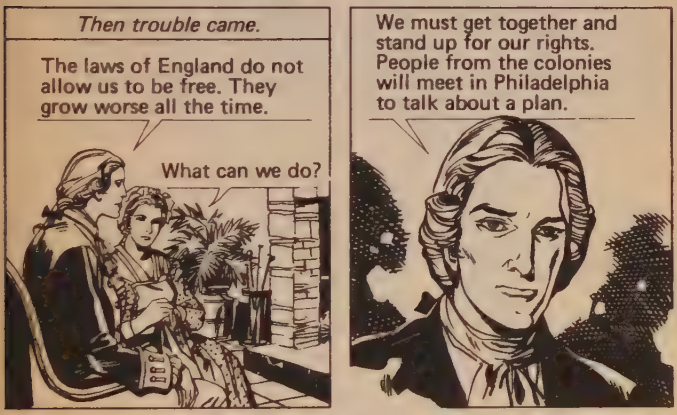
I do not know one note from another, but I enjoy hearing Patsy play!

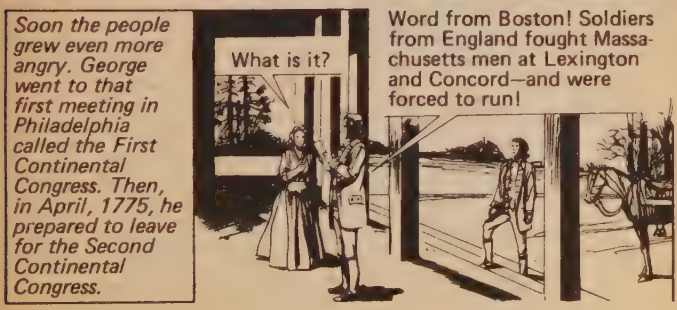
He learned to be a good farmer.

We must try other crops. Growing too much tobacco ruins the soil.

Revolutionary War Hero

That same year he was voted a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses.
My part will be small. But I will learn about making laws.
For fifteen years George was happy at Mt. Vernon. He became an important man in Virginia.
February 22 . . . your birthday . . . and the day you first attend the House!


Then trouble came.
The laws of England do not allow us to be free. They grow worse all the time.
What can we do?
We must get together and stand up for our rights. People from the colonies will meet in Philadelphia to talk about a plan.


Soon the people grew even more angry. George went to that first meeting in Philadelphia called the First Continental Congress. Then, in April, 1775, he prepared to leave for the Second Continental Congress.
What is it?
Word from Boston! Soldiers from England fought Massachusetts men at Lexington and Concord—and were forced to run!

The American Revolution had begun! Men from all the colonies hurried to Philadelphia. Washington was among them.

The British hold Boston. But men from the New England colonies are closing in around them. We must send more soldiers to help them!

We need an army!

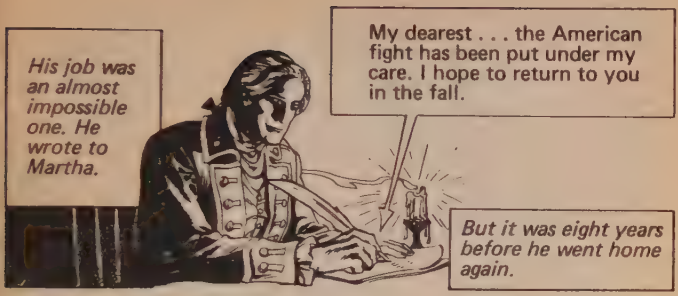
And we need a general to lead that army!

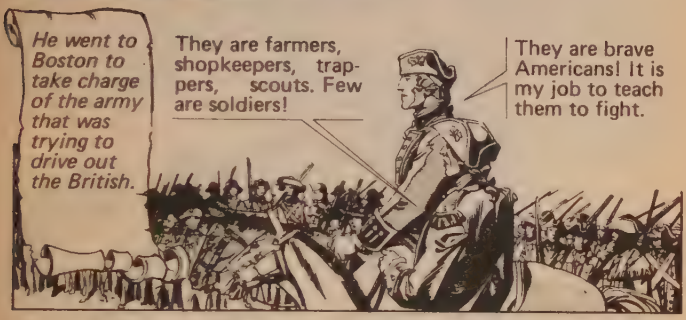
On June 14, John Adams of Massachusetts rose to speak to the Congress.

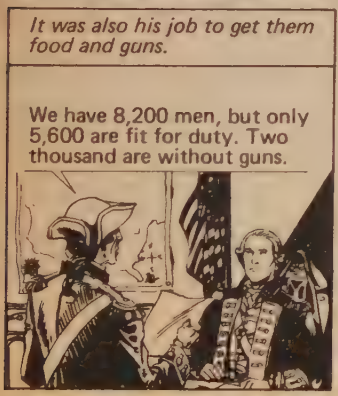
I have but one man in mind as leader of the army—a gentleman from Virginia—George Washington!

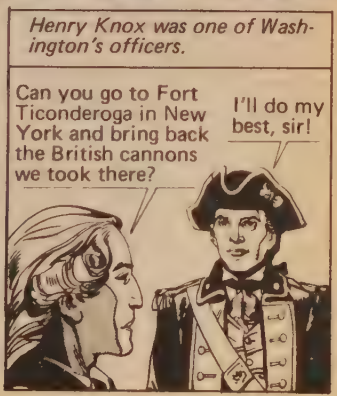
Hurrah!

Washington was the choice of everyone. Soon he went to look over some of his soldiers.


His job was an almost impossible one. He wrote to Martha.
My dearest . . . the American fight has been put under my care. I hope to return to you in the fall.
But it was eight years before he went home again.

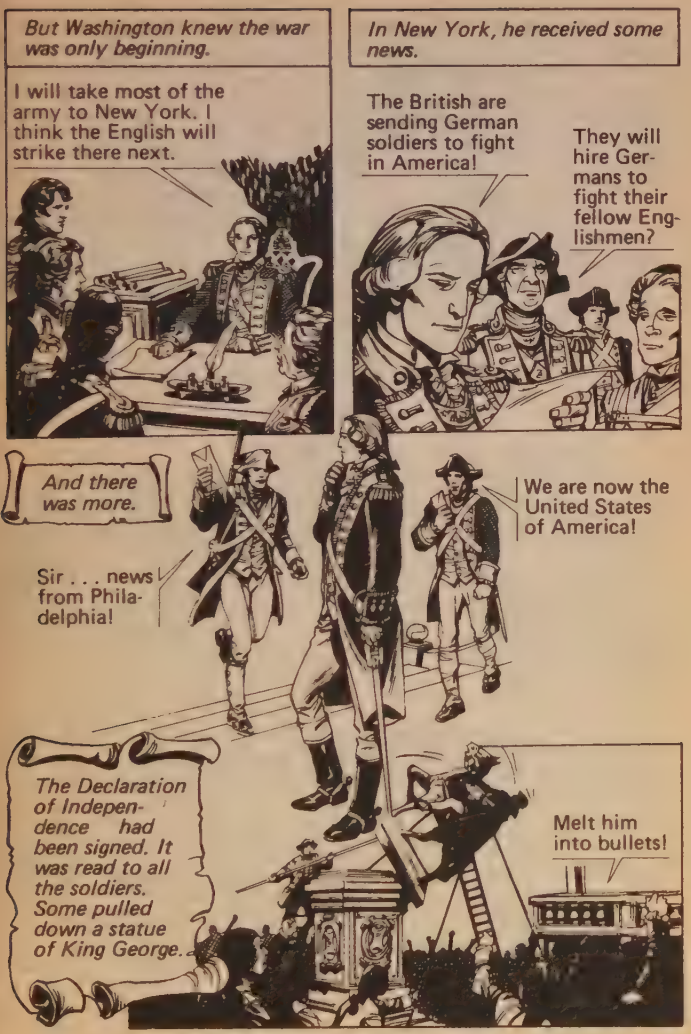

He went to Boston to take charge of the army that was trying to drive out the British.
They are farmers, shopkeepers, trappers, scouts. Few are soldiers!
They are brave Americans! It is my job to teach them to fight.

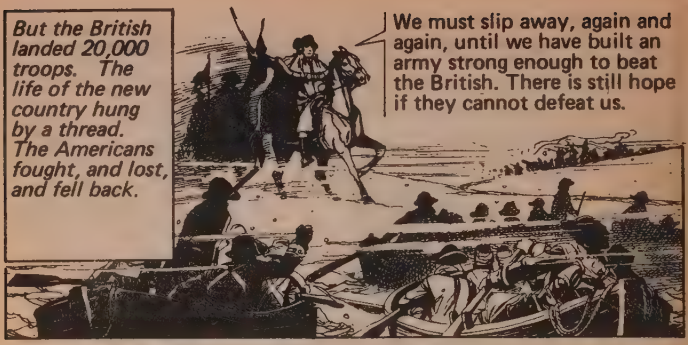

It was also his job to get them food and guns.
We have 8,200 men, but only 5,600 are fit for duty. Two thousand are without guns.

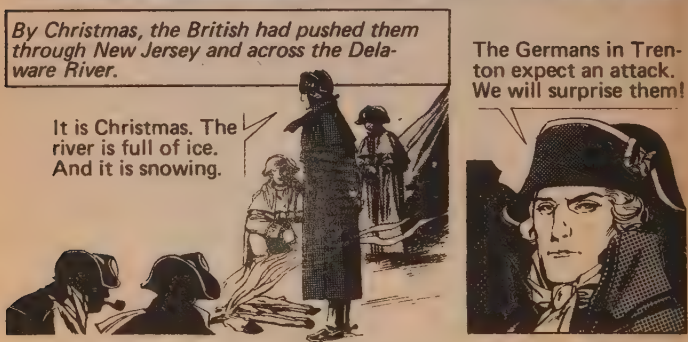

Henry Knox was one of Washington's officers.
Can you go to Fort Ticonderoga in New York and bring back the British cannons we took there?
I'll do my best, sir!

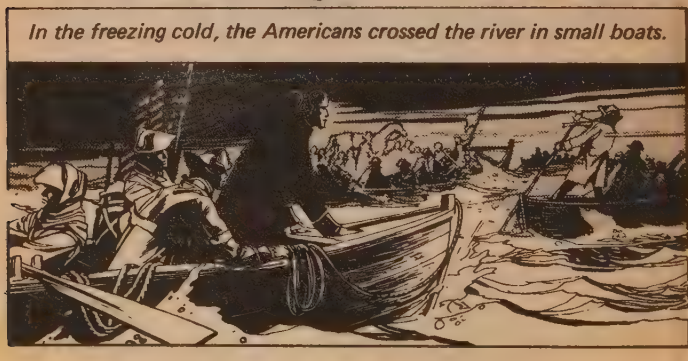
Several months later, the men around Boston cheered a welcome sight.

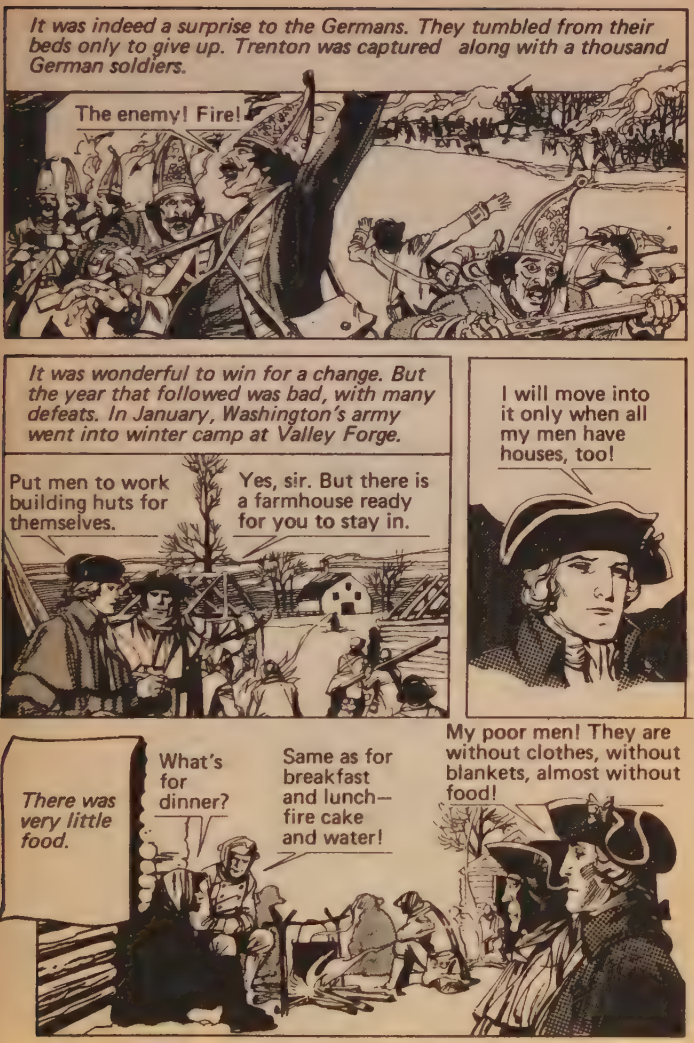
Colonel Knox and his men have dragged sixty-six pieces of artillery all the way from New York!
Because they loved him so much, Washington's men often did what seemed impossible.
After dark, without a sound, our men must drag the cannons to the hills above Boston and take the British ships by surprise.
Finally, spring came. The men were better trained. They had plenty of ammunition.
At daybreak, the British found themselves in a trap, being shot at by American cannons. They gave up and sailed away. The Americans marched into Boston.
Hurrah for General Washington!
And hurrah for the new American flag!

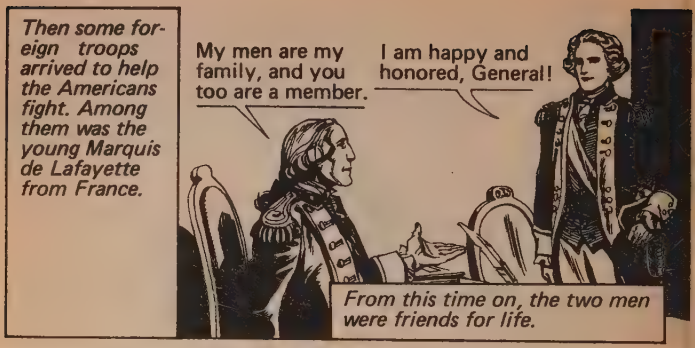

But Washington knew the war was only beginning.
I will take most of the army to New York. I think the English will strike there next.
In New York, he received some news.
The British are sending German soldiers to fight in America!
They will hire Germans to fight their fellow Englishmen?
And there was more.
Sir . . . news from Philadelphia!
We are now the United States of America!
The Declaration of Independence had been signed. It was read to all the soldiers. Some pulled down a statue of King George.
Melt him into bullets!


But the British landed 20,000 troops. The life of the new country hung by a thread. The Americans fought, and lost, and fell back.
We must slip away, again and again, until we have built an army strong enough to beat the British. There is still hope if they cannot defeat us.

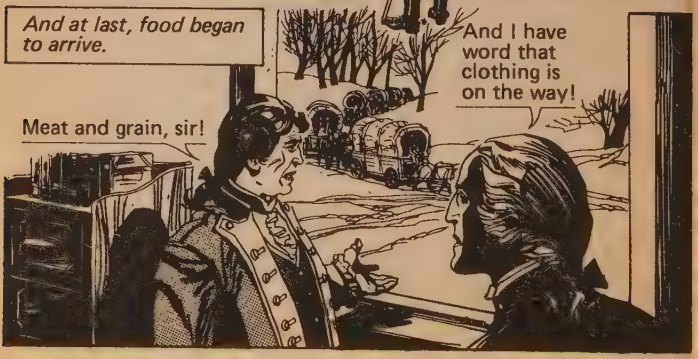

By Christmas, the British had pushed them through New Jersey and across the Delaware River.
It is Christmas. The river is full of ice. And it is snowing.
The Germans in Trenton expect an attack. We will surprise them!


In the freezing cold, the Americans crossed the river in small boats.


It was indeed a surprise to the Germans. They tumbled from their beds only to give up. Trenton was captured along with a thousand German soldiers.
The enemy! Fire!
It was wonderful to win for a change. But the year that followed was bad, with many defeats. In January, Washington's army went into winter camp at Valley Forge.
Put men to work building huts for themselves.
Yes, sir. But there is a farmhouse ready for you to stay in.
I will move into it only when all my men have houses, too!
There was very little food.
What's for dinner?
Same as for breakfast and lunch—fire cake and water!
My poor men! They are without clothes, without blankets, almost without food!


Then some foreign troops arrived to help the Americans fight. Among them was the young Marquis de Lafayette from France.
My men are my family, and you too are a member.
I am happy and honored, General!
From this time on, the two men were friends for life.

Martha came, too, to turn his headquarters into a home.
I have come to cheer you up!
Just seeing you does that, my dear!


And at last, food began to arrive.
Meat and grain, sir!
And I have word that clothing is on the way!

Baron von Steuben came from Prussia and trained Washington's men. They laughed at his broken English but worked hard for him.
He is making my country boys look like soldiers at last!
April came. There was warm sun and great news. France had joined the United States! She would send money, ships, and supplies!
The soldiers were happy.
Long live the king of France!
Long live the United States of America!
But there were other bad times. Three more years of war were still ahead.
The British have moved south. They've taken Georgia. Charleston has fallen, and 5,000 troops have been captured!
What one thing would help the most?
A navy!

In Connecticut in 1781, Washington met with a French general named Rochambeau.

General, two French fleets are sailing toward America!

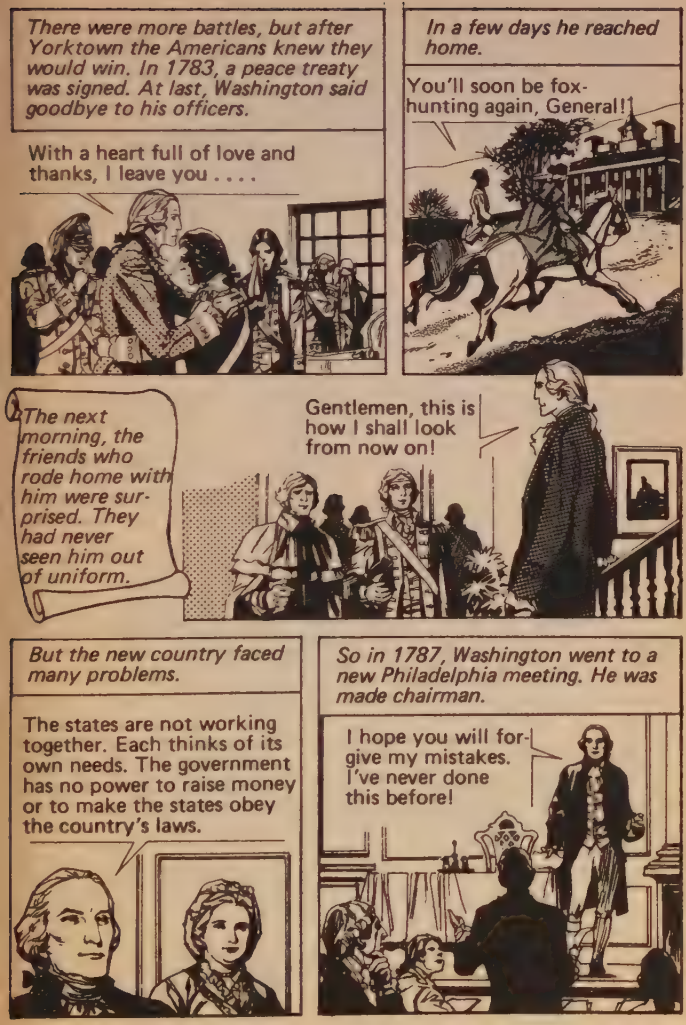
Wonderful news! We'll trick the British into thinking we plan to attack New York.

Instead, we will march south quickly. Then we'll attack General Cornwallis and the British at Yorktown by land, while the French fleet stops him from getting away by sea.

The plan worked. While the French ships blocked Yorktown harbor, American and French armies moved in from land to attack the town.

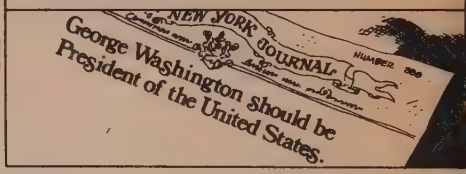
On October 17, a white flag appeared. Cornwallis had given up! While Washington watched and the American flag waved, the British army marched out in defeat.

President of the United States


There were more battles, but after Yorktown the Americans knew they would win. In 1783, a peace treaty was signed. At last, Washington said goodbye to his officers.
With a heart full of love and thanks, I leave you . . . .
In a few days he reached home.
You'll soon be fox-hunting again, General!
The next morning, the friends who rode home with him were surprised. They had never seen him out of uniform.
Gentlemen, this is how I shall look from now on!
But the new country faced many problems.
The states are not working together. Each thinks of its own needs. The government has no power to raise money or to make the states obey the country's laws.
So in 1787, Washington went to a new Philadelphia meeting. He was made chairman.
I hope you will forgive my mistakes. I've never done this before!

Through a long, hot summer the men talked about the country's problems. At last, they wrote a document. When it was accepted by the states, it became the Constitution.

There was one thing everyone agreed on. The New York Journal *of April 2, 1788 carried the following news:*



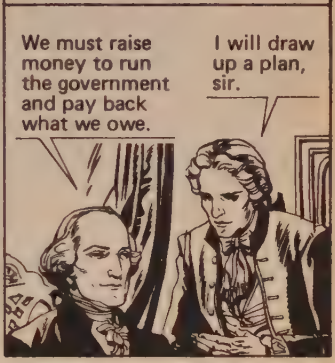
From the U.S. and Europe, letters arrived asking him to serve.

So once again the day came for Washington to leave the home he loved.

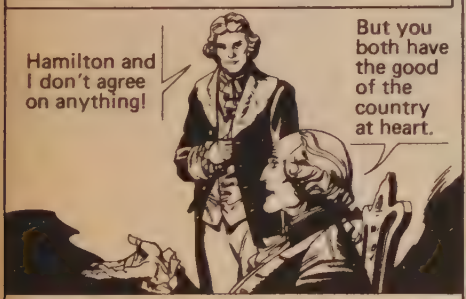
As always when he traveled, people in every town turned out to show their love for Washington.

In New York City, on April 30, 1789, Washington became the first president of the United States of America.

He made Alexander Hamilton his Secretary of the Treasury.

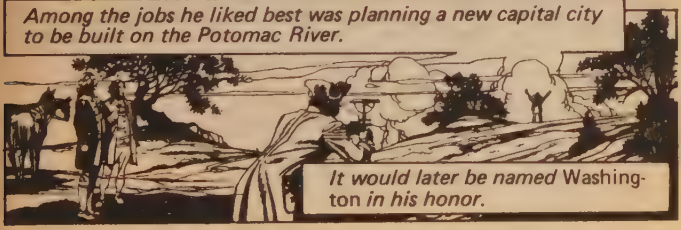


Thomas Jefferson became his Secretary of State.

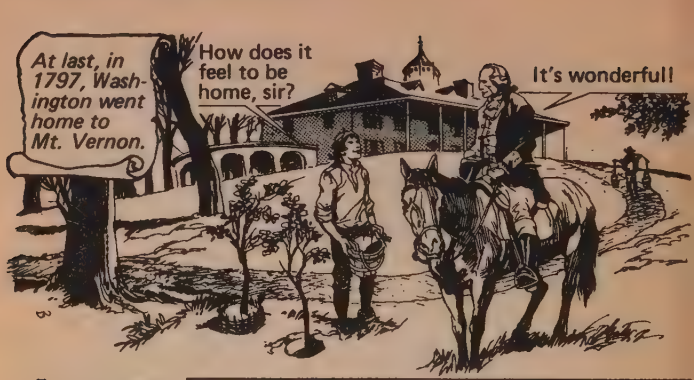


The president and the country faced many problems. But with his gift for getting men to work together, Washington made the new government work. He served two four-year terms.

Among the jobs he liked best was planning a new capital city to be built on the Potomac River.



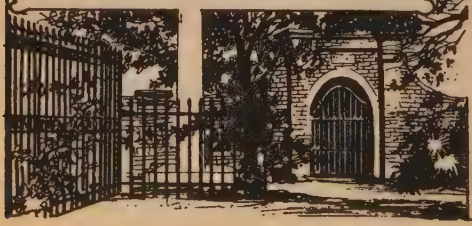
It would later be named Washington *in his honor.*



For two years he enjoyed his home and his family. One day he became ill. Two days later, in 1799, he died. All over the world people were sad.

Henry Lee, governor of Virginia and one of Washington's old soldiers, spoke at a memorial service.

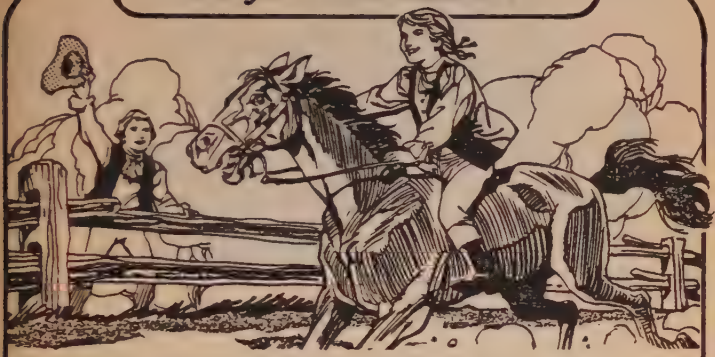
At his own wish, Washington was buried in a simple grave at Mt. Vernon. Later, Martha was buried beside him.



Since that time, Americans have come to Mt. Vernon to honor the memory of George Washington, truly the father of his country.

THE END

Do you remember?



As a boy George loved to:

a. ride horses. b. pick apples. c. train elephants.

Troops from Germany hired by the British to fight the Americans were called:

a. French. b. Hessians. c. Trentons.

Martha Washington came to stay with her husband the winter the army camped at:

a. Mt. Vernon. b. Valley Forge. c. Williamsburg.

After the war Washington thought he could go home to Mt. Vernon. But he was elected:

a. general of the army.
b. president of the United States.
c. ambassador to England.

Quiz Yourself

(Answers at end of section)

Words to know

capital	the city in which the government of a country or state is located
constitution	the written law of a country which states the duties of the government and the rights of the people
treaty	a written agreement that ends a war
government	the system of ruling that controls a country
rights	things that are due to a person, often by means of law

Can you use them?

Using the words above, complete the following sentences.

1. One of the rights stated in the American _____ provides for freedom of speech.
2. After the Revolution, England and the United States signed a peace _____ .
3. The _____ of Americans are protected by the Constitution of the United States.
4. Washington, D.C., the _____ of the United States, was named for our first president.
5. The United States has a democratic form of _____ .

Using pictures

In reading illustrated stories, you will find it helpful to "read" the pictures as well as the words. Look at this picture. It shows young George Washington working as a surveyor's helper. A surveyor is a person who measures land so that maps can be made of the area or so that major building can be done on it. As you read, look carefully at the other pictures, especially when you come across a word that is unfamiliar to you. The picture may give you a better understanding of what the word means.

While you are reading

George Washington was a good leader. His men trusted him and would follow him anywhere. While you are reading, make a list of the qualities Washington had that made him such a trusted leader.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

How well did you read?

When you have finished reading, answer the following questions.

1. George Washington's father taught him:

   (Check the correct answer.)

   _____ a. never to tell a lie.

   _____ b. spelling and arithmetic.

   _____ c. how to survey land.

   _____ d. to fight to win, and to finish any job he began.

2. The English army that was sent to fight the French in America was defeated at first because:

   (Check the correct answer.)

   _____ a. the French had more men and better weapons.

   _____ b. the English soldiers were poorly trained.

   _____ c. Washington had trained the French soldiers.

   _____ d. the Indians helping the French fired on them from the forest.

3. The people in the American colonies became angry with England because:

(Check the correct answer.)

_____ a. the English sold guns to the Indians.

_____ b. the laws of England did not allow the people of the colonies to be free.

_____ c. the colonists were not allowed to live in peace.

_____ d. the English did not protect them from French and Indian raids.

4. Why did Washington think that his job of training American soldiers was almost impossible?

(Check the correct *answers*.)

_____ a. Few of them had ever been soldiers.

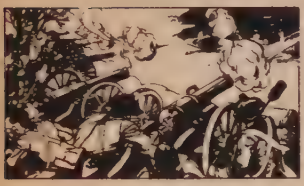
_____ b. Not many men joined the army.

_____ c. There weren't enough guns to go around.

_____ d. There were no officers to help him.

5. One reason the United States was able to defeat the English in the American Revolution was that:

(Check the correct answer.)



_____ a. Indians joined the war on the side of the Americans.

_____ b. the English soldiers were poorly trained.

_____ c. the French sent money, supplies, ships, and men to help the Americans.

_____ d. Washington's army was many times larger than the British army.

Using what you've read

George Washington was a famous general and a very popular president of the United States. When he died, the newspapers of his day must have written many stories about his life. Imagine that you are a reporter during Washington's time, and write a story retelling one of the events in Washington's life. You may choose from any of the incidents you have read in this biography.

ANSWER KEY

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Can you use them?

1. constitution
2. treaty
3. rights
4. capital
5. government

How well did you read?

1. d
2. d
3. b
4. a, c
5. c

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

COMPLETE LIST OF POCKET CLASSICS AVAILABLE

CLASSICS

C 1 Black Beauty
C 2 The Call of the Wild
C 3 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
C 4 Dracula
C 5 Frankenstein
C 6 Huckleberry Finn
C 7 Moby Dick
C 8 The Red Badge of Courage
C 9 The Time Machine
C10 Tom Sawyer
C11 Treasure Island
C12 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
C13 The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
C14 Gulliver's Travels
C15 The Hunchback of Notre Dame
C16 The Invisible Man
C17 Journey to the Center of the Earth
C18 Kidnapped
C19 The Mysterious Island
C20 The Scarlet Letter
C21 The Story of My Life
C22 A Tale of Two Cities
C23 The Three Musketeers
C24 The War of the Worlds
C25 Around the World in Eighty Days
C26 Captains Courageous
C27 A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
C28 The Hound of the Baskervilles
C29 The House of the Seven Gables
C30 Jane Eyre

COMPLETE LIST OF POCKET CLASSICS AVAILABLE (cont'd)

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C32 The Best of O. Henry
C33 The Best of Poe
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C37 Ben Hur
C38 A Christmas Carol
C39 The Food of the Gods
C40 Ivanhoe
C41 The Man in the Iron Mask
C42 The Prince and the Pauper
C43 The Prisoner of Zenda
C44 The Return of the Native
C45 Robinson Crusoe
C46 The Scarlet Pimpernel
C47 The Sea Wolf
C48 The Swiss Family Robinson
C49 Billy Budd
C50 Crime and Punishment
C51 Don Quixote
C52 Great Expectations
C53 Heidi
C54 The Illiad
C55 Lord Jim
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C57 The Odyssey
C58 Oliver Twist
C59 Pride and Prejudice
C60 The Turn of the Screw

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S 4 King Lear
S 5 Macbeth
S 6 The Merchant of Venice
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S 8 Othello
S 9 Romeo and Juliet
S10 The Taming of the Shrew
S11 The Tempest
S12 Twelfth Night

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B 2 Amelia Earhart
B 3 Houdini
B 4 Walt Disney
B 5 Davy Crockett
B 6 Daniel Boone
B 7 Elvis Presley
B 8 The Beatles
B 9 Benjamin Franklin
B10 Martin Luther King, Jr.
B11 Abraham Lincoln
B12 Franklin D. Roosevelt
B13 George Washington
B14 Thomas Jefferson
B15 Madame Curie
B16 Albert Einstein
B17 Thomas Edison
B18 Alexander Graham Bell
B19 Vince Lombardi
B20 Pelé
B21 Babe Ruth
B22 Jackie Robinson
B23 Jim Thorpe
B24 Althea Gibson

George Washington

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